

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) Method for monitoring broadcast signals at alternative frequencies during the reception of a broadcast signal at a present frequency,

characterized by

- comprising a step of instantaneously switching the receiver's gain from a present gain value corresponding to said present frequency to a second gain value corresponding to an alternative frequency whenever the broadcast signal at said alternative frequency is checked, whereby said second gain value is adapted to the supposed signal strength of the broadcast signal at said alternative frequency,

- wherein both the broadcast signal received at said present frequency and the broadcast signal received at said alternative frequency are broadcast signals according to the DRM standard.

2. (Original) Method according to claim 1,

characterized by

a step of determining whether the program transmitted via the broadcast signal at said alternative frequency is the same as the program transmitted via the broadcast signal at the present frequency.

3. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~,

characterized by

a step of comparing the signal strength of the broadcast signal received at the alternative frequency to the signal strength of the broadcast signal received at the present frequency.

4. (Currently Amended) Method according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1,

characterized in that

in case the signal strength of the broadcast signal at the alternative frequency surpasses the signal strength of the signal at the present frequency by a predefined amount, and in case the programs transmitted at both frequencies are identical, the received frequency is switched from the present frequency to the alternative frequency.

5. (Currently Amended) Method according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1,

characterized in that

~~both the broadcast signal received at said present frequency and the broadcast signal received at said alternative frequency are broadcast signals according to the DRM standard~~

alternative frequencies are monitored during time slots (18, 20, 22) of static data symbol transmission, whereby during a first time slot (18), the receiver's gain control circuit (13) settles to said second gain value, and whereby during a second time slot (20) of static data symbol transmission, the receiver's gain is instantaneously switched to said second gain value.

6. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim 1 ~~5~~,

characterized in that by

~~alternative frequencies are monitored during time slots (18, 20, 22) of static data symbol transmission, whereby during a first time slot (18), the receiver's gain control circuit (13) settles to said second gain value, and whereby during a second time slot (20) of static data symbol transmission, the receiver's gain is instantaneously switched to said second gain value~~
a step of correlating said broadcast signal received at said present frequency and said broadcast signal received at said alternative frequency.

7. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim 1 ~~5 or claim 6~~,

characterized by in that

~~a step of correlating said broadcast signal received at said present frequency and said broadcast signal received at said alternative frequency~~ the second gain value is set to a predefined constant.

8. (Currently Amended) Method according to ~~any of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1,

characterized in that

~~both the broadcast signal received at said present frequency and the broadcast signal received at said alternative frequency are FM signals~~ the second gain value is determined by reducing the present gain value by a predefined constant.

9. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim 1 8,

characterized by in that

~~a step of deriving, from a RDS signal component of the broadcast signal received at the alternative frequency, a PI code of the broadcast signal at the alternative frequency, and comparing said PI code of the alternative frequency with the PI code of the present frequency~~ the second gain value is determined by iteratively reducing the present gain value, whereby in each step, the second gain value is reduced by a predefined constant.

10. (Currently Amended) Method according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1,

characterized in that

~~the second gain value is set to a predefined constant~~ for each of a set of alternative frequencies, a corresponding gain value adapted to the signal strength of the broadcast signal at said alternative frequency is stored.

11. (Currently Amended) Method according to ~~any of claims 1 to 9~~,

characterized in that

~~the second gain value is determined by reducing the present gain value by a predefined constant~~

Receiver comprising a gain control unit,

- wherein said gain control unit comprises gain switching means for instantaneously switching the receiver's gain from a present gain value corresponding to said present frequency to a second gain value corresponding to an alternative frequency whenever the broadcast signal at said alternative frequency is checked, whereby said second gain value is adapted to the supposed signal strength of the broadcast signal at said alternative frequency, and
- wherein both the broadcast signal received at said present frequency and the broadcast signal received at said alternative frequency are broadcast signals according to the DRM standard.

Claims 12-15 (Canceled)

16. (Currently Amended) Receiver according to claim 11 ~~15~~,

characterized by

comparator means adapted for comparing the signal strength of the broadcast signal received at the alternative frequency to the signal strength of the broadcast signal received at the present frequency.

17. (Currently Amended) Receiver according to claim 11 ~~15~~ ~~or claim 16~~,

characterized by

frequency switching means adapted for switching the received frequency from the present frequency to the alternative frequency in case the signal strength of the broadcast signal at the alternative frequency surpasses the signal strength of the signal at the present frequency, and in case the programs transmitted at both frequencies are identical.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Currently Amended) Receiver according to claim 11 ~~18~~,

characterized in that

alternative frequencies are monitored during time slots (18, 20, 22) of static data symbol transmission, whereby during a first time slot (18), the receiver's gain control circuit settles to said second gain value, and whereby during a second time slot (20) of static data symbol transmission, the receiver's gain is instantaneously switched to said second gain value.

20. (Currently Amended) Receiver according to claim 11 ~~18 or claim 19~~,

characterized by

a correlator adapted for correlating said broadcast signal received at said present frequency and said broadcast signal received at said alternative frequency.

Claims 21 and 22 (Canceled)

23. (Currently Amended) Receiver according to ~~any of claims 15 to 22~~ claim 11,

characterized by

storage means adapted for storing, for each of a set of alternative frequencies, a corresponding gain value adapted to the signal strength of the broadcast signal at said alternative frequency.

24. (Currently Amended) Computer program product,

comprising computer program means adapted to perform the method steps as defined in ~~anyone~~ ~~of claims 1 to 13~~ claim 1 when said computer program product is executed on a computer; or digital signal processor, ~~or the like~~.